



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022

No. 113

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Oh, Lord, as our lips are open in prayer, so may our hearts be open to receive Your Holy Spirit. Help us to bow to Your will and live lives devoted to Your providential leading.

Lord, bless our Senators in their work. Let faith, hope, and love abound in their lives. Help them to seek to heal the hurt in our world and to be forces for harmony and goodness. Remind them that they will be judged by their fruits and that You require them to be faithful. May they seek to serve rather than be served, following Your example of humility and sacrifice.

We pray in the Name of Him who is our refuge from life's storms. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Ashish S. Vazirani, of Maryland, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, since the Senate was last in session, our Nation's highest Court finished its term. It was an absolutely historic series of victories for the American people and for the Constitution—the single best Supreme Court term in nearly 70 years, since *Brown v. Board* overturned *Plessy* in 1954.

For the first time in modern history, there is a textualist and originalist majority on the Court—Justices who understand the job of a judge is to fol-

low the law as it is written, who understand they are there to faithfully apply what our statutes and our Constitution actually say and leave everything else to the people and their elected representatives. This is the kind of judiciary that the rule of law requires, that our system of government demands, that a diverse society needs.

Last month, the Court corrected one of the most egregious legal and moral mistakes of the 20th century. Only seven countries in the entire world allow elective abortion-on-demand past 20 weeks, but until 2 weeks ago, past Supreme Courts had mistakenly decreed that the Constitution forced America to be one of them. All 50 States had to handle this issue like China and North Korea. No State was allowed to handle it even like France or Germany.

Of course, there is no command like that in our Constitution, and that is what the Court finally recognized. There is nothing in the Constitution that forces us to be a radical, global outlier on abortion. The American people finally have their freedom back to enact commonsense protections for unborn life.

Millions of Americans spent nearly half a century working, marching, and praying for this landmark day. It has been an honor to stand with them throughout the journey that led to June 24, 2022, and to continue to stand together. The Court's ruling in *Dobbs* is not only a huge victory for innocent life, it is a historic triumph for the rule of law itself.

Even liberal legal experts, including the late Justice Ginsburg, said the Court's abortion precedents were badly reasoned.

Liberal Yale law professor Akhil Amar, just this May, wrote:

I am a Democrat who supports abortion rights but opposes *Roe* . . . In the eyes of many constitutional experts across the ideological spectrum, it [lacked] solid grounding in the Constitution.

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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